a plurality of queuing devices corresponding to the plurality of the receive ports for queuing data blocks representing the data packets received by the corresponding receive ports,

logic circuitry for receiving the data blocks from the plurality of queuing devices in successive time slots to identify the at least one selected transmit port for each data packet, and

a scheduler interacting with the plurality of queuing devices for dynamically allocating each of the time slots to one of the plurality of queuing devices in accordance with data traffic at the corresponding receive ports,

wherein the scheduler is configured to receive a request for a time slot from a queuing device of the plurality of queuing devices when the queuing device holds data to be processed by the logic circuitry.

8.   (Amended) A multiport data communication system for switching data packets between ports, the data communication system comprising:

a plurality of receive ports for receiving data packets,

a decision making engine responsive to the received data packets for controlling transmission of the received data packets to at least one selected transmit port,

the decision making engine including:

a plurality of queuing devices corresponding to the plurality of the receive ports for queuing data blocks representing the data packets received by the corresponding receive ports,

logic circuitry for receiving the data blocks from the plurality of queuing devices in successive time slots to identify the at least one selected transmit port for each data packet, and

a scheduler interacting with the plurality of queuing devices for dynamically allocating each of the time slots to one of the plurality of queuing devices in accordance with data traffic at the corresponding receive ports,

wherein the logic circuitry comprises ingress rules logic for receiving the data block to check whether the corresponding data packets are received with an error.

13.   (Amended) In a communication system having a plurality of receive ports, at least one transmit port, and a decision making engine for controlling data forwarding between the receive port and the at least one transmit port, a method of data processing comprising the steps of:

placing data blocks representing received data packets in a plurality of data queues corresponding to the plurality of the receive ports,

transferring the data queues in successive time slots to logic circuitry for determining the at least one transmit port, and

dynamically allocating the time slots to the data queues in accordance with data traffic at the corresponding receive ports,

wherein a data queue representing each of the receive ports is assigned with at least one of the time slots.

Please cancel claims 1 and 12 without disclaimer or prejudice.